



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

entire. Who would not for one ode of Sappho, for one carmen of Catullus, give up all the pedantry and dullness of this darling of the commentators? But alas, it is the fate of good books, as of good men, frequently to die early, and to be soon forgotten. Time, that has destroyed all the graces of Menander, has preserved, unhurt, all the obscenities and abominations of Petronius.

As some of your readers perhaps,

may think that I have asserted rather than proved the faults of Propertius, I will, if you think proper, in future communications give some quotations from this poet, and arrange them under the several heads of pedantry, dullness, obscenity, and turgidity, &c. Meantime I conclude, wishing no other evil to the friends of Propertius than that they may have no relish for the beauties of Tibullus.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

MR. FR. HEGI, is engraving and publishing, at Zurich, a Collection of Costumes of the middle age. The first exhibits portraits of various persons of the 12th century; as Roger, Count of Sicily; Richard, Cœur de Lion; Elizabeth, Countess of Marche, third wife of King John.

The king of Naples, Joseph Bonaparte, had ordered a monument to be erected to the memory of Tasso, opposite to the house in which the poet was born. All his manuscripts were to be deposited in that house, with a copy of every edition of his works, and the keeping of them was to be entrusted to his nearest descendant.—Whether it has been carried into execution under his successor, we cannot say.

Desirous of prosecuting the researches at Pompeii with greater energy, he likewise ordered, that all persons possessing lands around the former openings, should relinquish them to government, who would give them in exchange demesne lands of the crown.

The celebrated Last Supper of Leonardo da Vinci, at Milan, has suffered so much from damp and other circumstances, that it will soon be totally destroyed. Bossi is taking a copy of it in oil, of the original size, from which it is afterwards to be executed in mosaic.

Mr. Sickler writes from Rome, that he has observed in the villa of Cassius, a wall of the construction termed Cyclopean, by Mr. Petit Radel, which stands upon another of the kind called *opus reticulatum*, by Vitruvius. Hence

he infers that Mr. Petit Radel is possibly mistaken with respect to the antiquity of that kind of masonry.

The subterranean passage, by which the emperor went privately from the palace of the Cæsars, on Mount Calius, to the Flavian amphitheatre, has been lately discovered. From it have been taken a number of architectural fragments, capitals, cornices, and vases, proofs of the splendour of its decorations. Some fine torques have been found, and a head of Mercury, which appears to have belonged to the statue formerly in the garden of the pope, and now in the Chiaromontin museum. Several pipes and gutters for carrying off water were met with, and twenty rooms of very small dimensions, and lighted only from the top. These are presumed to be the *fornices* mentioned so frequently by Martial, Seneca, and Juvenal.

Darwin's *Zoonomia*, which had already been translated into German and Italian, has lately appeared in French.

Pof. Bredow, of Helmstaedt, is busied on a new edition of the *Geographi Minores*. To those included in Hudson's collection, which will be collated with the best MSS. he means to add several others, as Dicuilus, Nicephorus, Blemmydas, Gemisthius, Ptolemy, Palladius, &c. It will likewise be accompanied with maps, exhibiting some ideas entertained of the globe, from Moses and Homer to the discovery of America. The professor requests the learned, particularly li-

brarians, to give him information of any unpublished manuscripts they know, of minor Greek or Latin geographers.

Professor Sue has published at Paris, an index to Sonnini's new edition of Buffon, in 124 vols. 8vo. The index occupies 3 vols.

A Mr. Baradelle has constructed a pen, which he terms capillary, capable of tracing 144 lines in the space of a French inch.

A complete edition of the geography of Abulfeda, in Arabic, with the modern Greek version, has lately been published at Vienna, by Demetrius Alexandrides, a native of Thessaly. This learned Greek, some years ago, translated Goldsmith's Grecian History, for the use of his countrymen; a second edition of which work he published in 1807, with an additional volume, containing an Epitome of the Byzantine History, and a tract on the Arts, Sciences, Religion, Manners, and Customs of the Greeks.

Mr. Kuithan, of Westphalia, has published the first part of his "Attempt to show, that Pindar's Pythian Odes were originally Plays. To this he has added some hints on the Greek Prosody.

The "Antiplatonic System of Government," of Mr. Grævall, lately published in Prussia, is said to have made a great deal of noise.

Mr. Rabenstein, of the Royal Cabinet of Antiquities at Dresden, has published an imitation of Lippert's Collection of Pastes from Antiques. There are 3149 contained in three large folio volumes, for which he charges 50 ducats (23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) He has also copied Visconti's collection in sulphur, consisting of 1237 casts, the price of which is 18 ducats (8*l.* 8*s.*) They are said to be extremely well executed.

A collection of laws, decrees, and official letters, respecting the Protestants in France; their situation in that country from the revocation of the edict of Nantz to the present time, the organization of the Lutheran churches, with various local observations, and historical facts, has lately been published at Paris, under the title of *Manual portatif des Réformes et Protestans de l'Empire Français*.

The following curious table of the general results of trials of the strength of different people, by Regnier's dynamometer, is extracted from the late Voyage of Discovery to the South, mentioned in our last number.

People.	Strength of	
	the hand.	Of the back.
	lbs avoird.	lbs avoird.
1 Savages of van Diemen's Land	111.6	326.4
2 — of New South Wales	114.2	357.3
3 Inhabitants of Timor	120.4	357.3
4 Frenchmen	182.6	487.2
5 Englishmen	157.5	524.3

This shows in a striking light the inferiority of some savages; but we could have wished to have had it extended to the natives of the Sandwich Islands, Society Islands, and many others.

Mr. Joachim le Breton, in his history of the class of fine arts of the French Institute for 1807, informs us, that the class is diligently proceeding with the Technical Dictionary of the Fine Arts.

Mr. Balthasar Solovyns, who has spent fifteen years in India, is publishing in numbers, a Description of the Hindoos, with their civil and religious customs. The plates will be engraved by himself from his own drawings taken from the life.

Dr. Moreau is publishing a new edition of Lavater, which he has endeavoured to render more useful by a better arrangement, and additional observations, from the sciences of physic and physiology. In these he has combined the substance of such remarks as have been made by la Chambre, Porta, Camper, and others, with facts since collected.

Mr. Castellan, having made a voyage to the Morea, and the islands of Zant, Cerigo, and Hydra, is publishing an account of it, with a number of plates, engraved by himself from his own drawings.

Don Francis Amoros, knowing how the class interested itself in the inquiry concerning the Cyclopean mode of building, sent Mr. le Breton, some extracts from an unpublished voyage to the island of Cyprus, made by order of his catholic majesty, with some drawings of ruins of the ancient temple of Venus at Paphos.—The blocks of these ruins have not the irregular polygonal figure that characterises the Cyclopean structures,

but the parallelogrammatical form, that belongs to the Asiatic system according to Mr. Petit Radel.

The class of mathematical and physical sciences is subdivided. The history of the mathematical and physico-mathematical sciences for 1807 is given by Mr. Delambre, who informs us, that,

Mr. Burkhardt has proposed a new construction for the telescope. He would use a plane small mirror like Newton's, but placed perpendicularly to the axis of the large concave mirror, and at half its focal distance.

Mr. Biot asserts, from his experiments, that the aqueous vapour in the atmosphere does not alter its refractive power so as to have any effect on astronomical observations.

Mr. Messier has collected all the particulars he could of the violent thunder-storm that occurred at Paris, on the 21st of October, 1807, and the extraordinary gale of wind, that came on the next day. In his journal, which he has kept for fifty years, he finds nothing equal to them: but on the 3d. of November following there was a storm as violent, during which the church of Montivilliers was struck by lightning.

Mr. Bouvard has published corrections of the tables of Jupiter and Saturn; and Mr. Delambre has calculated afresh his tables of eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites, which will soon be published.

The second volume of the "Base of the Decimal System of Measures," has been published; and the third which is the last, is in the press.

Mr. Berthoud, a few days before his death, which happened in August, published a supplement to his treatise on timekeepers, with an account of his labours from the year 1752.

Mr. Betancourt presented to the class a model of a lock for canals on the same principle as one invented by Mr. Huddleston, of Shaftsbury, in Dorsetshire, and described in Nicholson's Journal for April, 1803. We are not told, whether Mr. Betancourt claims the invention or not, but no mention is made of Mr. Huddleston, though Nicholson's Journal is certainly not unknown to our neighbours on the continent, as articles from it

are frequently translated, and inserted in their periodical works. Mr. B. however had added a mathematical discussion of the principles on which it ought to be constructed, so as to be worked with the least power.

Mr. Malen, of the engineers, has deduced the various circumstances of the propagation of light, and solved the fundamental problems of optics, from a uniform and general analysis. His theory is said to be entirely new.

The fourth part of Von Humboldt and Bonpland's Travels will contain in two 4to. vols. the astronomical observations, trigonometrical operations, and barometrical measures. Mr. von H. has thought it would be most satisfactory, to give the whole of the original observations themselves, that it may be seen what degree of confidence the results deduced from them deserve. The calculations have been made by Mr. Jabbo Oltmanns from the best tables. The magnetical observations, with an examination of them, and of those of Cook, Vancouver, and other able astronomers, by Biot, will occupy the 2d vol. As such a number of figures must be a long while printing, the latitudes and longitudes of various places, deduced from astronomical observations, have been published in a separate tract in Latin.

Mr. Thiebaut-de-Berneaud, member of the Italian Academy and several other learned societies, has published an account of the island of Elba, and other islands in the Tyrrhenian sea, in 1 vol. 8vo. with a map.

Gordon's History of Ireland has been translated into French.

Mr. Koehler has published at Petersburg a dissertation on the monument of Queen Comosarye, wife of Parisades, which is to be followed by an account of several very ancient and curious monuments discovered in Scythia Minor, the Taurica Chersonesus, and Asiatic Sarmatia.

Professor Gail, of Paris, has published an essay on the Effect, Sense, and Power of Greek, Latin, and French terminations: also the idiomatic expressions of the Greek Language, with observations addressed to Mr. Herman.

Mr. J. B. B. Roquefort's *Glossaire*

de la Langue Romaine, compiled from the manuscripts of the imperial library, and containing the etymology and signification of words used from the 11th to the 16th centuries, with a discourse on the origin, progress, and changes of the French tongue, in 2 vols. 8vo. is a valuable addition to the science of philology.

The Abbe Sicard, the able pupil and successor of the abbe l'Epée, has published in two thick vols. large 8vo. his theory of signs for the instruction of the deaf and dumb.

On the 22d. of August last Mr. Andreoli and Mr. Brioschi went up with a balloon at Padua. When they had ascended about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Mr. B. began to feel an extraordinary palpitation of the heart, without any painful sensation in breathing. When $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles high, he was overpowered with a pleasing sleep, that soon became a real lethargy. The balloon continued ascending, and when it was near 6 miles high, Mr. A. perceived himself swollen all over, and could not move his left hand. At the height of about $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the balloon burst with a loud explosion, began to descend rapidly with much noise, and Mr. B. awoke. It fell about 12 miles from Padua, without any injury being received by the aerial travellers.

The French minister of the home department having sent to the Institute some pyroligneous acid, prepared by Mr. Molérat, for its examination, Messrs. Fourcroy, Berthollet and Vauquelin, have made the following report, in answer to the questions accompanying it. The acetic acid obtained from wood is the same as that which constitutes the base of common vinegar, but it is more pungent, because it is not deadened by the admixture of foreign matter: it contains nothing but what is perfectly wholesome, if prepared with due care; and consequently there is no reason why it might not be sold by the name of vinegar, and used for the same purposes.

Mr. C. A. T. Goede, in his "England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland," in 5 vols. 8vo. of which a second edition was published in 1806, at Dresden, is said to have supplanted the classical work of Archenholz. A French reviewer ascribes to him only one fault,

BELFAST MAG. NO. XII.

that of being too partial to the English. He visited the united kingdom, in 1802 and 1803.

Mr. T. E. Mionnet has published a third volume of his Descriptions of ancient Greek and Roman Medals, with their degree of rarity and value, intended as a catalogue to a series of upwards of twenty thousand sulphur casts from the original.

In an academical thesis at Göttingen, entitled a specimen of an edition of the Symposium of Plato, Dr. Fred. Thiersch claims for Alcæus, a poem usually ascribed to Theocritus. It is the twenty-ninth in Valchenaer's edition, and occurs in Warton's at vol. i. p. 123.

Mr. Viel, of Louisiana, formerly head of the academy at Juilly, left behind him a translation of *Telemachus* into Latin hexameters, which some of his pupils have united to publish.

The scheme of bishop Wilkins has been pursued with some success at Vienna. A watchmaker, of the name of Degen, is reported to have ascended above the trees in the Prater, with artificial wings, taken his flight in various directions, and alighted on the ground with the ease of a bird.

Mr. Zurla, a benedictine of Venice, has published a Dissertation on the Voyages of Discovery to the north, by Nicholas Zeno, and his brother Antony. The brothers sailed from Venice in 1381; landed in Friesland, an island on the south of Iceland; governed by a prince called Zichmi; and visited Esland, Engroveland, Estotiland and Icaria. The latter we believe is the name they gave to the north-east coast of America, along which they appear to have sailed.

Macbeth and Hamlet were drawing crowded houses continually in Paris, last winter, while our English audiences appear to have lost all relish for tragedy.

Messrs. Thenard and Gay-Lussac, have decomposed the boracic acid by means of the basis of alkalis. Its base is a greenish brown substance, fixed, insoluble in water, insipid, does not change vegetable blues, burns spontaneously in oxygen gas, or at mospheric air, and is converted first into a black oxide, and ultimately into

z

boracic acid. They gave it the name of *bore*.

At the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, August the 6th, 1807, Mr. Burja read a paper on the resistance of the air; Mr. Klein, one on the advantages and disadvantages of national prejudices; and Mr. Von Humboldt a fragment on the great cataracts of the river Orónoko. The two prize subjects for 1810, are:

"To explain with more precision than has hitherto been done the object of the council of the Amphictyons, the extent of its powers and means, and its influence on the politics of Greece."

"A complete theory of the hydraulic ram, having regard to the adhesion of water." A description of this machine is given in Sonnini's Journal for Feb. 1806; and also in Nicholson's Journal, vol. xiv. p. 98, with remarks by the learned editor.

The prize for each is 50 *duc.* (23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and the papers must arrive before the 1st of May.

The Royal Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen, has proposed the four following prize subjects for the present year.

"To explain the construction and theory of a hydraulic tube, by which objects at the bottom of the sea may be perceived distinctly."

"What knowledge of the state of the atmosphere in its most elevated regions, has been, or may be gained by aerostatic voyages?"

"A comparison of the best and latest accounts we have of the religious notions of different Indian or Tartarian nations, and their opinions respecting the origin and most ancient state of the gods and of the world, with the ideas entertained by our ancestors on the same subjects."

"Has the eclectic philosophy no longer any thing that can render it justly commendable; and from these premises may the philosophers, who were once the ornament of the Alexandrian, or new Platonic school, be termed eclectics, or rather, as some think, syncretics?"

The prize is a gold medal of the value of 50 *duc.* (20*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) and the papers, which may be written in Latin, French, English, German or Danish,

are to be sent before the end of the present year, to Prof. Bugge, secretary of the Academy at Copenhagen.

The Royal society of sciences at Gottingen, in 1807, awarded a prize to Mr. Fulda, of Tübingen, for an answer to the following important question: "What influence have taxes on the morals and industry of a nation?"

HISTORY OF THE MATHEMATICAL CLASS OF THE INSTITUTE.

Continued from our last Number.

Mr. Poisson has investigated the theory of sound, and shown, that, whether direct or reflected, it is always propagated by spherical undulations with equal velocity in every direction; but that the vibrations of particles situate at the same instant in the sonorous wave are made with unequal rapidity, according to a law dependant on the nature of the primary impulse; and consequently, that the intensity of the sound, which depends on the velocity of these vibrations, is hence found to be different in different parts of the sonorous wave. He farther observes, that the causes assigned by Newton and other mathematicians, for the observed velocity of sound being superior to that which calculation gives, are inadequate. M. Laplace ascribes this acceleration of sound to the change of temperature, which the particles of air undergo in their condensation and dilatation.

The history of the physical division of the class is given by Mr. Cuvier.

Two prizes have been awarded by the class at different periods to dissertations on the hybernation of animals. Professor Prunelle of Montpellier has since sent a valuable paper on the same subject; but notwithstanding these, and the researches of Spallanzani, Mangini, and Carlisle, to which the class thinks its questions may have given occasion, we are still unacquainted with the causes, that dispose certain animals to sleep through the winter, and enable them to endure such a temporary suspension of their functions.

Mr. Geoffrey St. Hilaire, professor at the museum of natural History, and successor of Mr. Brouffonnet in the

Institute, is engaged in a great work on comparative osteology. His object is to investigate the analogies between the corresponding parts of animals with vertebræ. If any thing can elucidate the origin of organized bodies, it must probably be sought in the parts, that are constantly found more or less similar in number and situation, notwithstanding their dissimilitude in size and use, and irreconcilableness with any apparent final cause.

Mr. Dumeril has treated very ably on the mechanism of respiration in fishes, in which he has pointed out some interesting singularities; on the organ of taste in fishes, which he supposes to be the pituitary membrane; and on the vital and animal functions of certain reptiles.

Several other papers on the class amphibia have been read. Mr. Cuvier has shown, that there are at least twelve very distinct species of crocodiles in the two hemispheres. He has likewise examined a few amphibia

that some naturalists have considered as tadpoles, and shown them to be animals in a perfect state.

Mr. Dupuytren has demonstrated, that the action of the nerves of the lungs is indispensable in respiration.

Mr. Dupetit Thouars has pursued his researches in confirmation of his opinion, that the principle of the increase of the trunks of trees is in the buds; that the annual layers of wood are composed of the roots of the buds; and that the little medullary thread terminating each bud, performs the office of a cotyledon.

The celebrated chemist Crell, has been making experiments on one of the most important subjects in vegetation, namely, whether plants can acquire carbon, and whatever is necessary to their growth, from pure distilled water alone. These, which he has communicated to the class, appear to favour the affirmative side of the question; but we cannot pronounce them absolutely decisive.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Letter addressed to John Cartwright, esq. Chairman of the Committee, at the Crown and Anchor, on the subject of Parliamentary Reform; by the Earl of Selkirk. London, printed for Constable and co. Price, 1s. 1d.

THE Earl of Selkirk has a kind of family claim to be considered eminent in the ranks of patriotism. His father was on the popular side, and his elder brother, Lord Daer, was well known for his zeal in promoting the cause of parliamentary reform, in 1793, before the unhappy issue of the French Revolution operated as a powerful discouragement to all reform. The Earl of Selkirk himself has also generally ranked under the banners of the liberal side, but at present he appears, no doubt with virtuous intentions, to have arranged himself to a certain degree, in the opposite ranks, though as far as we are able to judge, he is very far from joining heartily, or with thorough conviction in the cause of the Anti-reformers. They, however, seem proud of his accession to them, and are loud in their praises of his let-

ter. In proportion as they are solicitous to avail themselves of the sanction of his name, so ought the friends of reform to be willing to attend to him when he assigns the moving causes for the change in his political conduct.

This letter is in answer to one he received, inviting him to act as steward at the late meeting of the friends to parliamentary reform. He thus portrays his former sentiments on this subject, and candidly admits the changes which have since taken place.

"To parliamentary reform my father and brother were, as you well know, zealous friends; and all my own early prepossessions were in favour of such a measure. I saw, with abhorrence, the ascendancy which unprincipled and worthless characters often acquired through the influence of corruption. I lamented the public advantages so often sacrificed to the interest of individuals. I was struck with the glaring manner in which the practice of our Constitution appeared to deviate from its theory; and I flattered myself that if the representation of the people were